



PRESS RELEASE

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SUS-CAT.

VIET CONG DESERTERS' CRIMES INCLUDE MURDER
AND RAPE; V-C COMMITTEE FIXES CONTROLS

10/69

Misconduct on the part of deserters from Viet Cong military units now include instances of murder and rape in one district of Long An Province.

According to a circular issued by the Military Affairs Section of the district, a 32-year-old woman in one hamlet of the district was "raped to death" by deserters. In the same hamlet other victims of attempted rape escaped their assailants.

Drinking, firing of weapons, robbery and disobedience to local authorities have become so prevalent that the Military Affairs Section has instructed village authorities to impound weapons and maintain discipline.

The circular, dated October 16, 1968, notes the increase of desertions and criminal misconduct since the preceding July. It says: "The rigors of war have produced many cowards who ignore discipline and desert their units. Some keep their weapons. In collusion with draft dodgers, long-time deserters and ralliers, they have caused considerable disruption in the countryside."

"In the face of such chaos", village authorities are to enforce regulations governing the conduct of Viet Cong soldiers absent from their units.

The weapons of deserters are to be confiscated. If deserters are unarmed, they are to be compelled to reveal where and how the weapons were disposed of. If a deserter opposes this requirement "he should be arrested and educated until he changes his mind."

The circular concludes: "We cannot condone illegal possession of weapons which may be used in the perpetration of rape and robbery or which will end up in enemy hands."

The document was captured by a GVN Provincial Security Unit in Long An Province on December 23, 1968.

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"NC. 69/HU-10

85 copies - M. Nuong

C I R C U L A R

"Recently, especially since July, the middle of the second phase, a number of cadres and soldiers some of them with weapons have deserted the subregion's battalions and main force units and returned to the liberated and contested areas. These deserters flock together, drinking, shouting and ignoring the orders of local authorities. Some of them even commit rape and blackmail. While threshing rice in Tan Hoa Hamlet, Tan Tap Village, at 2 P.M. on 30 August, 32-year-old Tam Lung was raped to death by these horrid deserters. They carelessly buried the naked corpse in a small irrigation ditch. Two other armed deserters tied Mr. N.D., also of Tan Hoa Hamlet, with eight millimeter nylon string, and attempted to rape his two daughters. The daughters managed to escape and call the hamlet cadres but when the cadres arrived the deserters had fled and they had to untie Mr. N.D. In another instance, Mrs. P.N., a soldier's wife was raped several times.

"These deserters also threaten the civilians and cadres by saying they are going to surrender. They have stolen money [and] chickens from residents of every village.

"The rigors of war have produced many cowards who ignore discipline and desert their units. Some keep their weapons. In collusion with draft dodgers, long-time deserters, and ralliers, they have caused considerable disruption in the countryside. There are deserters who consider the weapons that were issued to them to be their personal property and they fire them, give them away or destroy them whenever they feel like it with no regard for discipline.

"In the face of such chaos, the district command and military affairs section has created the following regulations:

"1. Whenever a soldier returns to a village, the village authorities will ask to see his leave permit. If he has one, he should be reminded of the requirement to preserve discipline. In either case, he should read this circular.

"2. He should be told not to drink, express dissatisfaction, get together with suspects, or rob the village populace. He must dig an underground trench for his own accommodation.

"3. If he brings along weapons and ammunition, the authorities should impound them and give him a receipt. They shall not be returned to him until he has obtained credentials from his battalion, company, or immediate command.

"4. It is most important to impound his weapons. The village authorities will tell all deserters that these weapons are the property of the revolution and since he has deserted his unit he must return them immediately.

"5. If the deserter claims that he gave his weapons away, he must lead the authorities to their location so they can be recovered.

Should he oppose this request, he should be arrested and educated until he changes his mind. We cannot condone illegal possession of weapons which may be used in the perpetration of rape and robbery or which will end up in enemy hands.

16 October 1968

For Military Affairs Section
Can Giuoc District
Hai Quang and Chin Chanh"

Seizing the opportunity, the attack force of Huong, Van, Thiu, Hoang, Nan, together with Comrades Chan, Thia, Hieu, and An of a friendly unit, ran forward, went around a hill of tea plants, and closed the circle at CT. Seeing the parachute hanging on a tree, Huong and Hoang pulled it down and rolled it tight into a bundle. Following experience in wild pig hunting, the troops searched through every thicket, every bush. "Here he is!"

With an AK bullet fired to scare the enemy pilot, everyone rushed in on him, bamboo strings ready, "don xoc", sickles, and guns. Huong grabbed his arms, Hoang grabbed his legs. Nan and others brought tree branches to camouflage his body to conceal him from the 11 airplanes in the air. Desperately, the sky pirates flew away one after the other toward the sea.

The enemy pilot was taken to a designated place. Various pursuing forces returned to the rice fields. Seventyfive hectares of rice of Unit 6 bent its golden tips, swaying with the wind as though they were also happy with the victory of the people at this battle front.

CSO: 3520-P